



**Wednesday, December 4, 2013**

**Minutes**

**Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Lisa Alderman, Faye Bailey, Willie Dell, Charles Ellis, Ronald Fabin, Wanda Judd, Sharron Kitchen Miller, Ann Edwards Rust, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Marcia Thalhimer, Ann Bondurant Trinkle, Shelley Kruger Weisberg

**Commissioners absent:** Tina Lea

**Staff Present:** Foster Billingsley, Tiffany Glass Ferreira, Cathy Welborn, Jenny Wortham

**Guests:** Steve Taylor, Steve Galyean and Justin Laughter

**Introduction**

Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Foster Billingsley welcomed the new Commissioners.

Steve Taylor, Director of Second Street Gallery, welcomed the Commission and gave a brief history and update on Second Street Gallery.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Charles Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2013 board minutes. The motion was seconded and approved. Ann Edwards Rust abstained because she was not in attendance at the October 3, 2013 meeting.

**2013-2014 Artist Fellowship awards in Choreography**

Willie Dell stated that the Artist Fellowship grant review panelists were professional and highly knowledgeable about the artistic field of Choreography. The panelists discussed the applicants at great length and arrived at a unanimous recommendation.

**The panel has recommended that fellowships be awarded to the following choreographers:**

Diane Coburn Bruning, Alexandria

Courtney Harris, Richmond

Vanessa Owen, Richmond

William Smith, Manassas Park

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to approve the panel and staff recommendations for the 2013-2014 Artist Fellowships in Choreography. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **2014-2015 Grant Guidelines Draft Proposal**

Foster Billingsley presented the proposed draft of the Guidelines for Funding for 2014-2015. He noted that the draft guidelines include updates and changes that came from the staff retreat in September 2013, on-line survey, the Commission's October 3, 2013 board meeting recommendations and comments collected from grantees and panelists over two years.

The Commission board requested that the font size be increased and the color of the changes within the grant guidelines be darkened.

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Grant Guidelines that will go into effect July 1, 2014. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **Wayside Foundation for the Arts**

Foster Billingsley gave an update on Wayside Foundation for the Arts. The Commission awarded Wayside Foundation for the Arts a \$12,700 General Operating Support grant for fiscal year 2013-2014. Approximately a week after the Commission released the first payment of \$5,398 the organization went out of business and did not notify the Commission.

Foster Billingsley presented two options on how the Commission can recover the first payment.

- 1) Contact the Department of Accounts to initiate a Comptroller's Debt Setoff (CDS). Under the CDS program, a payment made by another state agency to Wayside Foundation for the Arts may be withheld, in full or in part, to satisfy the debt owed to the Commission.
- 2) The Commission would ask the Attorney General's Office to take Wayside Foundation for the Arts Foundation to District Court for recovery of the first payment \$5,398.

Marcia Thalhimer made a motion to do a debt setoff to recover the first payment to Wayside Foundation for the Arts. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **Cultural / Arts Tourism Marketing Program**

Lisa Alderman introduced Steve Galyean with the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC). Steve. Galyean, Foster Billingsley and Sharron Kitchen Miller reported that although the meeting participants came well prepared and reviews were constant, both the low numbers of applications received and quality of many were a concern.

Mr. Galyean proposed that the VTC and Virginia Commission for the Arts will send out a joint survey in January 2014 to find out what our constituents would like to see in the grant program to improve the number of applications received and quality of applications. The VTC and Commission will field the results in February and the staff of both organizations and at least one

Commissioner will meet in March to come up with a proposal for a new program / initiative to submit to the Commission board at its March 26, 2014 board meeting.

### **2015-2016 Guidelines for Funding of General Operating Support for Major Arts Organizations**

Foster Billingsley spoke about defining the requirements for arts organization is moving into the Major Arts Organization category. The Commission board discussed the pros and cons of being moved into the the Major Arts Organization's category. Foster Billingsley spoke about the importance of organizations with budgets over \$1.5 million being reviewed by the statewide panel. The Commission staff will present to the Commission board at its March 26, 2014 board meeting additional wording to the grant guidelines that define the requirements of when an arts organization is moved into the Major Arts Organization category.

### **Roles of the Commissioners**

Lisa Alderman spoke about reinstating the Commission's committee structure (i.e. Education, Marketing and Policy Committees.) It is expected that the Commissioners will attend arts events, meet with arts leaders and be the eyes and ears of their region, but also oversee what is in the best interest of the entire State. Part of the role of the Commissioner is to meet with local legislators to thank them for their leadership and support of the Commission and the arts in general.

### **Virginians for the Arts**

Lisa Alderman introduced Justin Laughter, Interim Executive Director of the Virginians for the Arts. Mr. Laughter gave background information on the goals of Virginians for the Arts and an update for Arts Advocacy Day.

### **Old Business**

Lisa Alderman, Foster Billingsley and Jenny Wortham reported on their attendance at the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies' annual leadership meeting in Jackson Hole Wyoming. This conference gathers state arts leaders and board members from all over the United States to discuss how to make the arts stronger in the country and in each state.

### **New Business**

- Foster Billingsley reported on the Commission's 2013-2015 Strategic Plan and where we are with the planning and operational timeline. The Commission is either in the process or has completed the majority of the items on the timeline for Summer and Fall 2013, as well as several items on the Winter 2014 timeline.
- Tiffany Glass Ferreira gave an update on the Artist Roster. The Commission staff has created an on-line artist roster application and is in the process of accepting applications to be included in the roster.
- Foster Billingsley and Jenny Wortham spoke about the 2014 Art Works Conference. This year the Commission is offering more breakout sessions and on-line registration.

- Jenny Wortham updated the Commissioners on the travel reimbursement requirements.

**With there being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.**